

1 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

2 The present invention is directed to a gastrostomy device  
3 comprising, a tubular portion defining a longitudinal axis, an internal  
4 bolster having a radial wing secured to the tubular portion, the internal  
5 bolster being flexible to permit elastic deformation between a first  
6 orientation generally aligned with the longitudinal axis, with the wing  
7 wrapped into a generally cylindrical configuration and a second  
8 orientation with the wing unfurled and extending generally transverse to  
9 the tubular portion longitudinal axis and a constraining member encasing  
10 the internal bolster to retain the internal bolster in the first orientation, with  
11 the wing wrapped into the generally cylindrical configuration, and to  
12 cover at least a major portion of the wrapped wing, wherein the removal  
13 of the casing permits the internal bolster to move from the first orientation  
14 to the second orientation. The internal bolster may be deployed by the  
15 use of a ripcord to tear through the wall of the capsule, freeing the  
16 internal bolster of the gastrostomy device into the patient' stomach and  
17 deploying the internal bolster to a second orientation with the wing  
18 unfurled and extending generally transverse to said tubular portion  
19 longitudinal axis. Alternatively, the internal bolster may be deployed by  
20 the constraining member being dissolved by the patient's bodily fluids  
21 located inside the patient's stomach.